



# John Adams Classical Academy

**A tuition-free classical charter school**





# JOHN ADAMS ACADEMY

- John Adams Academy is a proposed, K-12 classical charter school
- Like all charter schools, John Adams Academy will be tuition-free and open to all students
- Planned opening in Fall 2026
- Seeking a release to the Charter School Institute



# WHY?





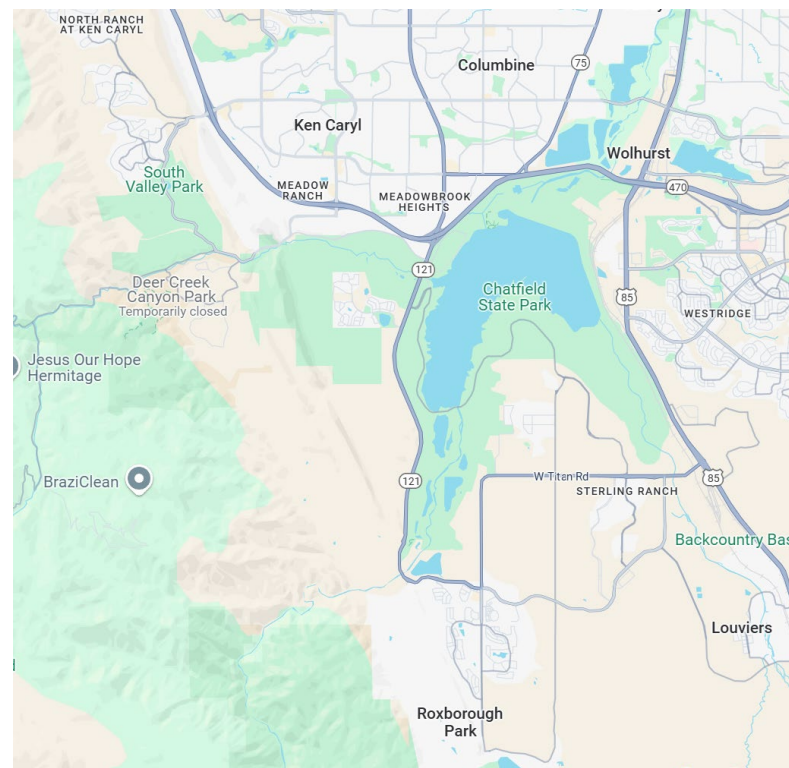
# GOVERNANCE

- Founding Board Members:
  - Linda White
  - Ellie Reynolds
  - Roger Kime
  - Dwayne Maragoni



# LOCATION

- The school will identify a location within Northwest Douglas County
- The location will not be on land dedicated to the Douglas County School District
- The school is expected to serve families in Northwest Douglas County and in Southwest Jefferson County





# LOCATION SUPPORT



November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chair Williams  
Douglas County School District Board of Education  
620 Wilcox Street  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

**Re: Sterling Ranch's Commitment to a K-12 Charter School**

Dear Chair Williams, Director Geiger, Director Meek, Director Moore, Director Thompson, and Director Myers,

Thank you for your service and commitment to the Douglas County School District's families, students, teachers, and our community. Your leadership has supported the District's effort to be the top scoring District in the Denver metro area. We have so much to be thankful for in Douglas County.

I am writing this letter today, as the President of the Sterling Ranch Development Company, asking that you support the letter of intent and application for a K-12 Charter School at Sterling Ranch that will be submitted this month to the Colorado Charter School Institute. The application will request Charter Authority for the John Adams Academy for Fiscal Year 2025.

As you know, Sterling Ranch is a growing community with young families who need neighborhood and charter schools. Our commitment to you, as leaders in Douglas County, is that we will collaborate with the John Adams Academy throughout the Colorado Charter School Institute application process to dedicate a suitable school site parcel within the Sterling Ranch Development that meets the needs of the proposed school facility.

Thank you again for your service and your commitment to the families of Douglas County.

With Respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brock Smethills', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brock Smethills  
President Sterling Ranch Development Company  
8155 Piney River Ave  
Littleton, CO 80120



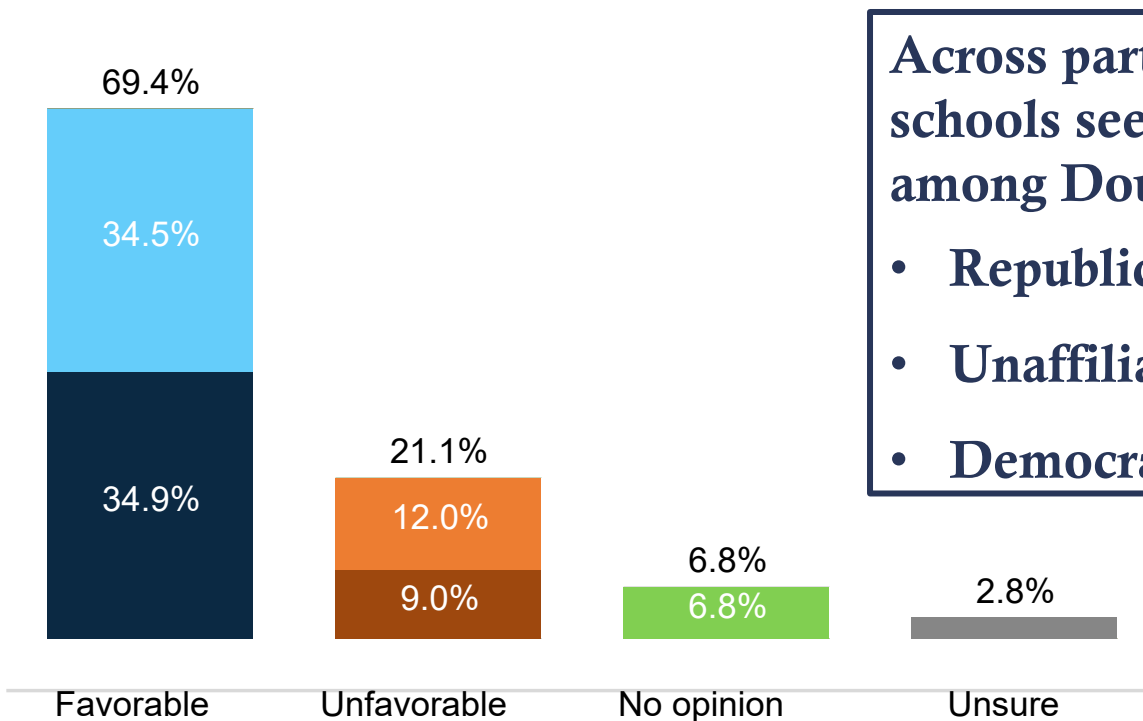
# NEED

- Classical education is a unique educational model not currently offered in the area
- Douglas County parents strongly support school choice and having diverse options available to meet their child's unique needs
- Recent polling of Douglas County residents found that public schools are favorable to a majority of voters (57% *favorable*, 39% *unfavorable*) , and charter schools are even more favorable overall (63% *favorable*, 23% *unfavorable*)



# CHARTER SCHOOL SUPPORT

Charter school support increases to nearly 70% when voters know they are tuition-free public schools open to all children



**Across party lines, charter schools see majority support among Douglas County voters**

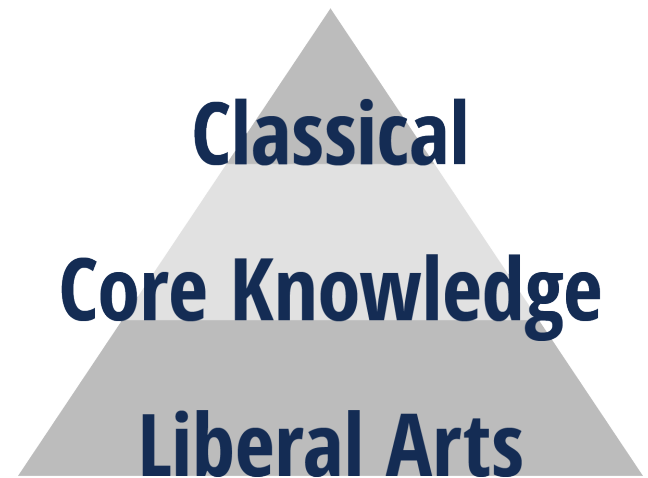
- **Republicans 80%**
- **Unaffiliated 66%**
- **Democrats 58%**





# WHAT IS CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

- ▶ **Liberal Arts and Sciences** – Freedom comes from reason. The liberal arts teach children to reason about their world, and include literature, history, math, science, art, and music.
- ▶ **Core Knowledge**
  - ▶ Dr. E.D. Hirsh Jr. (Cultural Literacy, How to Educate a Citizen)
  - ▶ “Shared knowledge” – knowledge, not skills
  - ▶ Content-rich, integrated, and spiraled approach
- ▶ **Classical** – Cultivation of wisdom and virtue, pursuit of the good, true, and beautiful. Great books. Inspire wonder and a love of learning.
- ▶ **The Western and American Tradition.**





## NEXT STEPS

- If the release is approved, the school's governing board will apply to the Charter School Institute (CSI)
- Application requires demonstration of community support and identification of a facility
- CSI will engage in a rigorous and thorough review of the application
- CSI's governing board votes to approve or deny the charter school application

